

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

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A. H. CLEMENT, Editor.
THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 1928

On the new road law basis of
gas tax distribution Appomattox
will receive approximately \$17,
000, this with our district tax
and other road taxes will give
us a handsome sum for roads
much more than we have ever
had. When we consider that the
State has taken over and is
maintaining more than 50 miles
of our county roads and that
Appomattox is maintaining its
own roads, why not reduce the
tax for road purposes some?
We feel sure that the Board can
do this without hindering road
work.

Complaint is heard from many
of the citizens of this town of
the frightful condition of the
streets and inquiry is made as
to expenditures of the town's funds.
No statement of its budget has
appeared in print, the condi-
tion of the town treasury is
sought. Let the council make
up its budget and invite a
hearing from the people as to how it
shall be disbursed.

It looks like ten miles of new
road will be added to State High-
way in Appomattox for main-
tenance by a new law. The Board
of Supervisors will be glad to
get this relief, and the people
are sorely in need of relief from
taxation. Where will the Board
designate the new State road al-
location?

The Board will adopt a semi-
annual plan, we believe and have the
road finished from Bent Creek
to Red House through the center
of the county. This is certainly
the most important highway in
the county.

Governor and Mrs. Dan Moody
of Texas are living on this salary
of \$4,000 a year. He vetoed the
bill to increase his own salary
from \$4,000 to \$10,000, because
he took the job at \$4,000. The
country needs more public officials
as conscientious as Governor
Moody. Such men are entitled
to more pay. But they should
not be forced to raise their own
salaries. This is the largest
State in the Union, and is also the
greatest Democratic State, and
really the party was right when
it gave Houston the Convention.

Among the good bills, which
will most probably become a law
is the banking bill sponsored by
Senator Ferguson, limiting banks
all deposits. Also a bill to pro-
hibit loan companies from charg-
ing more than 24 per cent inter-
est and salary shavers from
charging more than 10 per cent.

The bill increasing the pay of
Judges and Jurors is to be com-
mended. This ought to be put
in the names of our best people in the
jury box. While the proposed
\$3 per diem is much it does
less the pay of jurors and ex-
cuses will not be looked upon
with favor by judges any more.
The jury should contain none of
our very best citizens.

Tragedy in Co-
operative Tobacco

Morton L. Corey's article in
The Co-Operative Marketing
Journal on the failure of the To-
bacco Growers' Co-Operative As-
sociation is another and a dark
indictment of the management
of that organization.

Stating his paper "A Receiver
of Post-Mortem," Mr. Corey
expresses his continuing faith in
flexible marketing associations
that are well managed, and he
proceeds then to describe what
he considers to have been the

"Management's first blunder"—
the assumption that the associ-
ation had market control. "With
real contract control," says Mr.
Corey, "they could as readily
have leased their warehouse
requirements. If their paper
control proved an actual one in
practice, they could have named
their own purchase prices at the
expiration of the leases. If
their venture did not prove suc-
cessful, they would have saved
enormous capital expenses. As
it was they organized five ware-
housing corporations, offered
by separate boards and other
personnel, and bought ware-
houses at such extravagant prices
that the sales of these properties
to date have netted the receiver
only about 37 per cent of the
purchases."

Other mistakes grew out of
the initial, mistaken assumption
that the association had market
control. Overhead was neglect-
ed on the theory that if the as-
sociation really controlled the
market, high operating costs
through the simple process of
raising the price of tobacco a
few cents. From Feb. 8, 1922,
to May 1, 1925, the association
expended \$3,214,000 on operating
expenses, \$20,011,000. This
total of sales during this
period," comments Mr. Corey,
"was \$38,186,000, and the total
of expenses, \$20,011,000. This
figure tells the whole story.
Giving due credit for the re-dry-
ing expense upon the tobacco in-
ventory not sold during that pe-
riod, unparadiseable extravagance
and unparadiseable management are obvi-
ous. Relation of expenses to
sales is a variable quantity. Rel-
atively high overheads may be
justified in some commodities,
but no such ratio as prevailed in
this association has a shadow of
justification in the marketing of
tobacco.

Still deluded by the idea that
it controlled the market, the
management, says Mr. Corey,
"refused to sell tobacco at good
prices, which tobacco was car-
ried for years, with its interest
and storage burdens, into the re-
fusal of a plausible pretext for the
refusal of certain association offi-
cials to sell the tobacco in their
green states that they might profit
by its re-drying in their own
companies."

Another direful blunder, ac-
cording to Mr. Corey, was the
failure of the association to in-
crease marketing efficiency by
shortening the circuit between
producer and consumer. "The
association," insists Mr. Corey,
"depended almost entirely upon
sales to American dealers to sup-
ply the foreign trade. These
dealers allowed the association
to pay interest and other carry-
ing charges, kept tab on the as-
sociation's stocks, and bought
it only when they could not
procure their requirements else-
where. The association should
have established its own Euro-
pean sales organization. Price
factor, as now, is the controlling
factor in Europe. With the
American dealers' profit for a
margin for European sales, every
pound of the foreign types would
have been sold at a fair price, and
before the accumulation of great
carrying charges.

Not all the blame for this eco-
nomic tragedy can be placed on
the management. Deserving
members were likewise, if not
equally to blame. Even when
the market control is attained, the
non-member is apt to in-
crease production and may de-
moralize the member who goes
him peddling without bearing
his part of the load. "A way
must be found," says Mr. Corey,
"to make those who share the
benefits . . . likewise share the
burdens." If the way be one of
approved economy, well and
good. If it must be something
new and cumbersome, it must be
tried nonetheless. The agricul-
tural situation is so serious, the
tendency to co-operative market-
ing so great, that we must look
to outside support, must sub-
scribe to any plan which will af-
ford prompt relief."

Mr. Corey's story appeals to
the News-Leader as downright
conservative and based on thor-
ough study. If there be another
point of view, it too, should be

publicly presented. For the to-
bacco grower of the South At-
lantic seaboard must organize
in some form, if they
are to save their industry from
destruction, and they will need
all the light they can get from
the lamp of experience.—News-
Leader.

BRIGANDAGE WANES
WITH OLD LEADERS

Travelers in Mediterranean
Countries Safe.

Rome—Brigandage in Mediter-
ranean countries, traditionally in
the Middle Ages, is now at a low
ebb. One by one the leaders of the
brigands have fallen into the hands
of the authorities and in Italy, Greece,
Candia, Asia Minor and Turkey the
brigands have been curbed.

Recently "The Wolf of Stia," who
was captured by troops about the
middle of the last century and sen-
tenced to life imprisonment, died in a
Cathesian village, where he had lived
since his pardon, at the advanced age
of ninety-three. Stia, the last of the
classical brigands, the Wolf gave
the government plenty of trouble be-
cause he was the most notorious of
the brigands, a long-time leader, a
long-time domain for hundreds of years,
was swept clean of robbers, slain by
French soldiers, and his body was
sent to Paris, where it was placed in
a museum as well as carrying on the
trade of an outlaw.

Found Easy Picking.
The business of capturing travelers
and holding them for ransom was re-
vived by Mediterranean brigands
about 1850 and far better systematized
than it had been by the robber barons
of the Middle Ages. Once it was dis-
covered that the British government
bore out by several important discov-
eries made by workmen during ex-
cavations here.

Bones which are believed to have
belonged to two ancient Britons who
were buried at about the time of Julius
Caesar's invasion were found in a
cave near the site of the excavations.

The child's mother is the head of
the Hamilton Grange school of New
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The mother will specialize in the
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called in to divide the rest of the
work.

Prof. John B. Watson will study the
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BABY'S LIFE TO BE
RULED BY SCIENCE

Savants Will Study Every
Move of Girl.

New York.—Poor Harriet Kallen,
after another.

They are going to study her every
move, make notes on her first laugh,
her first cry, her first step, her first
word, her first move, and go into con-
ference with the cries.

They want to know why she wags
her head and they hope to find
out what makes her put her fist in
her mouth.

Harriet doesn't know that she is to
be the object of such close observation
as weeks old.

The reason for all this is that Har-
riet's family is just naturally inter-
ested in psychology. Her father, Dr.
Horace M. Kallen, is a lecturer on
philosophy and aesthetics and has been
on the faculty of Princeton, Harvard
and the University of Wisconsin. He
is a disciple of William James and
has written books.

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